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THE UNITARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS

The Nightingale Home, Great Hucklow. Photograph by John Hewerdine.

£500 FOR GREAT HUCKLOW

A Personal Report of the 1961 U.Y.P.L. A.G.M.

By Miss Sue Sutcliffe

I had my first experience of an A.G.M. at Great Hucklow, and very enjoyable it was too, especially the perfect weather that some kind soul had laid on. Our party arrived at the Children's Homes only to find the lights fused. A dark greeting! Peace and light were restored swiftly and we could see to eat our supper. The bod-in-charge-of-the-week-end, the Rev. Trevor Jones, welcomed us all, and after feeding well we watched films until it was time to retire to bed.

Up with the sun on Saturday morning for bacon and beans, then a lazy free morning. Some people lay or sat in the sun; others walked in the sun; some people drove round in the sun (if they had anything to drive round in); and some others (very few!) cleaned their cars in the sun! After lunch came the very solemn ceremony of declaring the swings and see-saws open (presented by Bury Sunday School Union) which was performed by the Rev. Eric Wild, who also performed in person on the swings!

The A.G.M. began at last at 3 p.m. when the retiring president, Florence Stark, of Glasgow, gave her greetings to the meeting. Ivan Knowlson read the minutes (seemed like hours) of the last meeting, followed by the reports of the General Secretary (Martin Davies); the National Treasurer (Martin West); and T.Y.U. Editor (Neville Kenyon) respectively. Greetings were presented from the G.A.; from the R.E.Y.D. from the Women's League; from the Men's League; and from the F.O.Y. society. All the greetings saluted the U.Y.P.L not as an extraneous group in Unitarianism, but as one of the family, or one of "the team" as the Rev. J. H. Smith remarked at the G.A. Youth Meeting!

The resolution to raise subscriptions passed after much "friendly altercation" (quote Trevor Jones). An appeal to raise £500 for the Hucklow Homes was unanimously approved. The following officers were installed:

President: Len Smith, of Hyde (a famous East Cheshire U.Y.P.L.er!). President-elect: Martin Davies (alias General Secretary! Thanks went to Martin for his marvellous work of the last three years). General Secretary: Norman Bailey. Conference Secretary: After his wonderful organisation of the week-end, who else could there be but—the Rev. Trevor Jones! National Treasurer: Martin West—he always manages the money so well.

Editor of T.Y.U.: Neville Kenyon—may he go on forever! Elected members: Alan Curren, Carl Holden, Pat Hopkins. Camp Secretary: Our man under canvas! Carl Holden! Drama Festival Secretary: Bob Vickers (just look at the success of the last festival and think who was responsible!) Yes, it's him. Duplicating Secretary: Keith Hill (doing a most vital job to U.Y.P.L. in a most efficient way). International Secretary: Doug Copley—a truly international organiser. Publications: Derek Jackson—the man who got us the smashing ne U.Y.P.L. songbooks done so we ca sing in "the barf." Publicity Secre tary: Peter Short—Ubiquitous an highly effective. Auditor: Henr Tittle, warden of the homes, Henr knows all about money . . .

The new president for 1961-62 Leonard Smith, of Hyde, was dul installed in office, with Florenc Stark becoming vice-president.

Some people missed the films o Friday night, so Messrs. Dunn an Webster kindly showed them again After a riotous social, everyone wen on the mid-night hike (an ol Spanish custom!) and arrived hom in the wee small hours (a good wa to slim, as someone was heard to re mark . . .)

At the service in the Old Chapel on Sunday morning taken by Bryan Dalby, Florence Stark gave an excellent sermon based mainly on the theme "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Then a sing-song with the new U.Y.P.L. songbooks (price 1s. 6d. each, get yours now) which put us all in a good humour for lunch, after which some people listened to David Dunn's tape recording of the adjudicator's remarks at the Drama Festival.

Time for tea once more (food plays an important part at an A.G.M.) and then everyone began to drift off home.

T'TYKE IN MANCHESTER

"Ez gooid ez ony an' better than sum'," wor t'verdict o' mooast fowk at t'Assembla Meetin's in Manchester an,' trewth to tell, Ah'm inclined to saay es Ah'm in agreement we' their gooid judgement. For misen Ah didn't get into awl t'meetin's . . . tha seeas wi' livin' in t'area Ah wor gi'en a toathri jobs to do . . . but awl Ah did heear an' seea made mi think abaht that owd line, "Onward an' upward for iver; in mony ways its still reight tha knaws. Oh ay! Ah knaw ther's a lot o' fowk ull nut hev it to bi trew,

ut if tha taks nooatice tha'll seea ts same fowk es shahts t'lahdest baht improvin' t'nature o' 'Assembla Meetin's an' sich like; ah if thats nut onward an' upward . . . then Ah'm a claatheead.

Ther wor a sooart o' togetherness baht t'meetin's this yeear that wor varry welcum. Tha couldna put it iahn to ony partikler item, but it wor theear in t'atmospheear, as hoa t'delegates hed wakkened up to 'fact that wi wor a church meetin' n' nut a debatin' society . . . an', ike t'chap ses on one o' t'television dverts, 'it shows.' If it gooas on showin' wi s'all happen mak a bit nooar progress in t'comin' days. Ther's nooa reeason why wi sudden't.

T'New President gave us a varry vise an' thowtful address (an' to surpriz o' mony he managed it vi'aht his pipe . . . a varry commendable sacrifice). T'Business Meetin' hed its moments wi toathri delegates bobbin' up an' dahn like 'Jinny an' Jockey swingin' rahand o wet an' windy. Mooast o' their questions sahnded imposin', but when tha pricked t'wind aht o' them hey didn't amahnt to mich. Ah've nooaticed afooar that mony a time hease questions are nobbut a matter o' facts an' figgurs 'at could be varry weel dealt wi' bi' written questions an' answers, same es they du in Parlyment.

T'Luncheon at Belle Vue wor a nice touch . . . a varry nice touch . . . it cost a bit o' brass o' cooarse, but then its a pooar soul that niver rejoices, an' a nice meeal is nooan t'wahr for toathri trimmin's.

Tha can awllus trust t'Women's League to cum up wi summat snappy . . . apaart thru' t'fashions they don . . . this yeear it wor a new line in meetin' fashions. They hed a resolushon abaht changin' summat but insteead they passed an amendment to leeave t'matter ez it wor. It wor nut 'accordin' to protocol' (ez newspapers like to tawk abaht nahadays) but then t'Unitarians hev bin kickin' ageean acts o' uniformity a long time nah an' its gooid to think wi've a few kicks left.

Ah weel, mi bit o' space is ewsed up sooa Ah mun draw to a clooase. Befooar Ah do Ah mun tell thi it wor reight champion to seea thi awl in Manchester. T'Sight o' sooa mony o' thi breet friendly faces wor a fair inspiration to us in t'North an' thowt o' thi will help us thru' mony a dree hahr in t'days aheead. We wor fain glad tha wert able to cum. God bless thi.

BETTER COUNTRIES

By J. Martin Hall

"We find them longing for a better country—I mean, the heavenly one. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God; for he has a city ready for them." Hebrews II.16. New English Bible,

So speaks the Epistle to the Hebrews of the men who are inspired by faith. To-day most live only too rigidly in this present world. How fascinating are those amongst us who feel that they are on the edge of another world. When they speak of this they pull us up and give us pause and really make us think.

There's Professor William James: "A man's religious faith means for me essentially his faith in an unseen order of some kind in which the riddles of the natural order may be found explained." The bare assurance of this ... "is enough to make life seem worth living. Destroy this bare assurance . . . and all the light and radiance of existence is extinguished . . . at a stroke."

There's Professor C. Day Lewis, the poet:

"Faith is the thing at the core of you; the thing for which you make any sacrifice because without it you would be nothing—a mere walking shadow . . . I know what my core is

. . . when I write my poem I am trying to make sense out of life, and just now and then my experience composes and transmutes itself into a poem which tells me something I didn't know I knew."

There's John Masefield, the Poet Laureate, still publishing at 83. In his autobiography, "So long to Learn," he asks:

"What's the poet's inspiration, this illumination which comes to some people and adds so much to human happiness?" "Some say," he tells us, "it is just a rare and perfect functioning of being; some that it just comes—an idea comes and sticks and that's it." But this he tells us, is what he thinks it is . . ."It is the perception by a mortal of an undying reality to which all mortals have access by effort and from which all beauty, good, wisdom, and rightness forever come to men. I cannot doubt that this universe of glory, of energy exists, and that man may in some strange ways enter into it and partake of its nature."

The views of these three writers are all rather like the answer which Sir John Hunt in "The Ascent of Everest" gives to the question, "What was the point of climbing Everest?" "The possibility," he answers himself, "of entering the unknown . . . the simple fact that it was the highest point on the world's surface —these things goaded us on."

It is perhaps for the same reason that—amid much of the superficiality of modern living—when we hear anyone really speaking of their inmost faith, and of unexplored countries, we are pulled up and given pause and really made to think.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

RAYMOND AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Hello, everyone, this is Raymond. I don't think I told you of something that happened a few weeks ago. Lisbeth and I were talking one day after tea. Mum was in the pantry; Dad was in his chair, reading the evening paper.

"What on earth was all that commotion in your class this afternoon?" Lisbeth asked me.

"Commotion?" I said. "Oh, yes. E—that was me."

"You? What had you been doing?"

"Well, it was simple. I couldn' answer a question. You see old Ma . . ."

"Old who?" grunted Dad from behind the paper.

"Er—Mr. McDonald asked m what was the capital of France."

"And you didn't know that?" cried Lisbeth.

"No," I said, truthfully. "All could think of was the letter F."

"And what happened?"

"Oh, old Mac just did his nut."

Dad lowered his paper.

"Old Mac did what?" he enquired

"His nut," I replied.

"Raymond," he said, "you do pick up some really mellifluous phrases."

"Er—pardon Dad?"

"Phrases that flow sweetly off the tongue."

I thought he wasn't feeling well but I was wrong.

"Where did you get hold of thi one?" he asked.

"Oh, it's very popular, Dad," I said.

"Perhaps I'm not —what's tha other phrase?—'with it,' but it's nev to me."

"Haven't you heard it on TV Dad?"

"No, I haven't."

"Haven't you heard it at work?"

"My office is probably unusual but I can't say I have."

"Well, it's—er—very popular Dad."

"So you've said. Do they teach i at school?"

"No, but the other lads use it."

"Do they? And what does i mean?" Dad asked, striking a match for his pipe.

"Well, it means that somebody goes barmy or off his head or . . ."

"Charming. That is nice, isn't it? A very happy thought."

"It doesn't mean as bad as that, ad. It's exaggerated, you know?"

"I find most of these phrases are, aymond; and they are used too usually. They tend to give a wrong npression. I suppose you talk equently of people 'doing their it' when it wouldn't apply strictly one person in a thousand . . ."

Dad had got going nicely when the ghted match burnt the end of his nger; and, in spite of what he had id, what d'you think he did? Yes, ou're quite right!

NITARIANS IN THE NEWS

The Rev. Tom Wardle, formerly of tannington and Kendal, and ecently minister in Australia, has esigned from the Unitarian inistry upon becoming a Congreationalist.

The Rev. Kenneth Wright has ccepted an invitation to minister at ukinfield, the Rev. L. Chandler at outhport, and the Rev. E. Phillips, t Gateacre and Hope Street, Liverool.

The Annual Civic Service at Newngton Green, London, in May, also narked the retirement of the inister, the Rev. J. Reece Walker. Two of Mr. Walker's friends came to wish him well. They were Mr. Victor Gollancz, who preached the ermon, and Baroness Ravensdale, who read one of the lessons. The other lesson was read by the Mayor of Stoke Newington, to whom Mr. Walker is Chaplain. At the time of the appointment to the chaplaincy there was something of an outcry because the Mayor is a Jew. Prior to becoming a minister Mr. Walker taught for fifty years, finishing his teaching career as headmaster of Stamford Hill. One of the most famous of his pupils is the actor Mr. David Kossoff. To commemorate Mr. Walker's chaplaincy the mayor and mayoress presented the chapel with a silver flower vase.

Considerable publicity has resulted from the press report of the address given by the Rev. Arthur Long to the Bolton Family Planning Association. The Young People of Mr. Long's Church have asked him to preach on a controversial subject once a month!

Mr. Norman Brookes, of Mossley, has been elected a county councillor.

A "symbol" designed by the Rev. Magnus Ratter, often used in Cape Town Unitarian Church publications.

AS I SEE IT

By H.J.

During the war it was quite a compliment to be referred to as a "Back Room" boy, the one who did the useful and important work behind the scenes. A parallel is to be found in all our churches in the "Back Room" girls or to be more respectful the "Back Room" women. They are at the centre of the fellowship of our church life and they have proved themselves extremely capable when called upon to fill important offices. They are good organisers and are always to the fore when efforts are required to raise money.

One section alone, the Women's League, is doing a wonderful important job in strengthening the the financial side. They are also ready to help other important work and their practical support of the work of the Unitarian College and the India Fund is truly magnificent.

NEWS AND VIEWS

HOME CHURCHES

CROSS STREET CHAPEL, Manchester, now has a regular mid-week lunch-time service each Wednesday. The service is from 1.20 to 1.50. Coffee is available from noon until the service, and tea after the service until 2.30. The morning service on the first Sunday in each month is now a special service for children.

RICHMOND, Surrey, is awaiting the result of the application to the local authority for planning permission for its Church Extension Scheme. When this is finally approved an appeal will be issued to members for the necessary funds to go forward with the building.

The 1961 Spring Festival, under the auspices of the Yorkshire Unitarian Union and the Yorkshire Sunday Schools was held at HALIFAX in April. Five hundred entries were submitted. BROADWAY AVENUE, Bradford, was successful in winning the shield and picture for the highest aggregate number of marks for both Church and Sunday School. SCARBOROUGH received the vase for the highest number of marks obtained by a Sunday School, and CHAPEL LANE, Bradford, the Rose Bowl for the highest marks awarded for entries by Church members. Over 200 people attended the Festival.

Members of the STOCKPORT U.Y.P.L., with members of the Church, have raised £18 for the Congo Relief Fund. Over £20 has also been collected for the R.S.P.C.A.

The Rev. A. B. Downing was the preacher at HINCKLEY Sunday School Anniversary services in May. Words of the hymns sung by the children were written and set to music by the late Mr. Hugh Atkins, a former member of the congregation. Collections totalled over £94.

A Children's Corner has been opened at Great Hucklow thanks to the thought and generosity of the Bury Sunday School Union. Eight representatives of the union went to Hucklow on May 6th for the official opening, only to find that some of the equipment—two swings and a see-saw—were delayed somewhere in transit. However, the Rev. Eric Wild, chairman of the Home's Management Committee, gave hearty thanks to the Bury Union for its efforts on behalf of the homes. The equipment had arrived by the next week-end, the week-end of the U.Y.P.L. Annual General Meetings, and Mr. Wild was able to complete the opening.

GUILDFORD is now somewhere special for HORWICH, and no longer just a "place down South." This is because Horwich recorded a special service of hymns and sent the tape to Guildford. As there was some space at the end of the tape messages of greeting were added.

Since January the Rev. Ralph E. Goddard has had pastoral oversight of UNITY CHURCH, Wood Green. There has been renewed interest and congregations have increased considerably. For the first time in

Northern S.S. Federation

UNITARIAN HOLIDAY HOMES

GREAT HUCKLOW, BUXTON DERBYSHIRE

No increase in charges. All three Homes will be ready to welcome you. Early booking desirable.

any years juvenile activities have en recommenced and already the unior Church and Junior Club emberships have reached thirty ildren.

Each year FLOWERY FIELD, Hyde, as a special effort for Manchester's hristie Cancer Hospital and Holt adium Institute. This year's total as £250 14s. 4d. This is an all time cord. The special efforts began in 51 when £40 was raised. So far e total raised is over £1,800.

DONCASTER has added to its roll of embers the name of Mr. Adam braham (formerly Abdul Majid, of ahore), who espoused Unitarianism hen changing his faith.

On Whit Monday the CHESTERFIELD U.Y.P.L entertained the Mansfield branch to tea and a social. At e Junior Chapel Anniversary rvices on the first Sunday in June number of young people were edicated for Chapel membership. he Junior Chapel presented the ageant "The Tower of Life," written by the minister, the Rev. A. W. allance at the evening service.

WHAT THEY ARE DOING

Many reports are coming from the nited States of America about what nitarian churches are doing in the resent inter-racial troubles. One ich report comes from New rleans:

The First Unitarian Church of ew Orleans is the only church in ew Orleans, La., to issue a public tatement in support of integrated chools. On the level of direct participation, many of its members ave made outstanding contributions n positions of responsibility with .O.S. (Save Our Schools): providing transportation to children ttending integrated schools, until his function was assumed by the ederal Marshals; and two of the nembers now face prosecution for aving initiated and led a group in he first down town "sit-ins."

The Lindsey Press
ALIENATION AND FELLOWSHIP
by Dr. D. Russell Davis
Reader in Medical Psychology Cambridge
Essex Hall Lecture 1961
2s., by post 2s. 2d.

THE WAY OF PRAYER
a manual of daily prayers and readings
2s., by post 2s. 2d.

SUPREME HOURS
selections from the prayers, sermons and verse of
W. G. TARRANT B.A.
2s., by post 2s. 2d.
The Lindsey Press, Essex Hall, 1/6, Essex Street, Strand, London W.C.2.

To keep alive and active the battle for integration, the congregation has established a Special Fund to finance them in such vital areas as:

(1) helping parents through periods of economic reprisals when they lose their jobs and have their homes vandalised because of sending their children to integrated schools.

(2) support teachers who face the possibility of dismissal because of their views on integration.

(3) to provide legal counsel for persons facing prosecution because of having been outspoken or active in bringing about integration.

(4) to embark on a programme of education designed to relieve tension and to strengthen those democratic ideals that are now being undermined.

Churches throughout America are supporting the fund. An appeal by Vancouver Unitarian Church resulted in 146 dollars being sent.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

"In 1876 Coun. William Wrigley was made Mayor of Oldham. He was a Radical and a Unitarian, and he

refused to go to Oldham Parish Church to be "churched." Instead he invited the Council and the citizens to accompany him to the Unitarian Chapel which they did.

The disappointed Churchmen were not responsible for the outrage, but a Tory mob commandeered a donkey, decorated it with imitation regalia, and escorted the animal to the church door.

"Joe Burgess reminiscences."
The "Oldham Chronicle," May 6th, 1961.

MRS. GASKELL

Mr. J. G. Sharps, of Oxford University, is engaged upon a study of the life of the Victorian novelist, Mrs. Gaskell, and will be pleased to hear of any out-of-the-way material, especially letters, MSS., etc., by or about Mrs. Gaskell. His address is 95, Upper Road, Kennington, Oxford.

OBITUARY

HALL. On April 26th, CONSTANCE MARSDEN Hall, of "Byfield," Green Walk, Bowden. Daughter of the late John Hall, aged 87 years. Interred Saturday, April 29th, at Hale Barns Chapel.

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